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FTA news

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ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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Start Campaign For Defense Of Cotton Oil Mill Strikers

HELP is needed at once for the legal defense of five FTA members in Little Rock, Ark., who are under arrest for alleged violation of the anti-labor Arkansas Anti-Violence Law. In an appeal sent to all FTA locals, CIO international presidents and secretary-treasurers and CIO state, city and county industrial union councils, FTA President Donald Henderson urged immediate financial support for the case.

Send all checks to Georgia Morris, Secretary, Southern Oil Company Strikers Defense Committee, 119 Glover Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Little Rock, Ark.—Blood of a union man mixed with Wesson salad oil and streaked through Snowdrift and Scoco shortening isn't proving too palatable to unionists of the Southwest.

Five union men go on trial March 19 in Little Rock, under Act 193, the handiwork of the so-called Christian American Association and Sen. W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel of Texas. They are charged under this law with violence on the picket line.

The truth is that the only violence in the strike of Southern Cotton Oil mill workers was the murder of a member of FTA by strikebreakers. But the strikebreaker who confessed to stabbing Walter Campbell to death walks scot free on the streets of Little Rock while five union men, four of whom did not even witness the killing, are indicted under Act 193 and liable to one to two years in the penitentiary if convicted.

Raising Funds

CIO local unions in the Southwest which have been fighting Christian American Association legislation, are rushing funds for the defense of the five unionists. FTA is conducting a national campaign to raise funds for legal defense and to place the issues before the public of Little Rock and Arkansas.

The basic issues in the Southern Cotton Oil Mill strike are the 12-hour day and the 50c hourly wage rate.

When FTA signed its first contract in 1941 with this concern, a subsidiary of Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co., with a hundred gins and 72 crushing mills strung from South Carolina to Texas, the wage scale was 35c an hour, with the 12-hour day and no overtime. The lobby of the Southern Seed Crushers Association had been able to exempt the cotton oil industry from provisions of the Wages and Hours law.

Profits Running High

Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co. did $117,000,000 business in 1944. They have assets of $57,026,000, earned $8.33 on preferred and $2.27 on common stock. Sales have doubled since 1938 while profits are running 300% over pre-war. Earned $3,111,000 net in 1943, $2,491,000 in 1944 and $2,820,000 in 1945. Labor cost is about 8% on business done.

Negotiations for renewal of the contract in the summer of 1945 broke down on the Union's demand for overtime payments and for a 10c increase to 60c an hour. U. S. Conciliation Service was unable to bring the two sides together, a union offer of arbitration was rejected. Local 98 called a strike Dec. 17, following Smith-Connally procedure.

Aware of the dangers in the Arkansas picketing law, the Union permitted only middle-aged and older heads in the local on the picket line. All were instructed to avoid any effort by the company or strikebreakers to provoke an incident.

The murder of Walter Campbell occurred under circumstances pointing definitely to a frame-up. Walter Campbell and his buddy, Robert Brooks, were not pickets. They were younger men who had not been assigned to picket duty. Both had been under strong pressure from Supt. Roy Castillow to desert the Union and return to work. Castillow had phoned Campbell to urge the two of them to return to work only a few hours before. The two union men stood firm and said no.

The two men were a block from the Southern Cotton Oil mill plant when five strikebreakers approached them. Usually these men take a bus home on leaving the plant. The bus stops directly in front of the plant.

A timekeeper and foreman were observed after work to walk up the street to a grocery store. By an odd coincidence the strikebreakers overtook the two union men right in front of this grocery store. There's where the murder took place, with two company men as witnesses. Campbell was stabbed to death while Brooks was set upon by part of the gang so that he did not actually see what happened to Campbell.

After the fight, Brooks ran down the street to get help. Somebody called a Negro ambulance. The drivers piled Campbell into the ambulance and Brooks sat in back with him. There was no interne. When he reached the hospital, he died while being carried in. There were stab wounds in various parts of his body and doctors doubted whether it could have been done with one instrument.

Grilled by Deputies

Brooks was grilled by deputies who threatened to send him to Granite Mountain. This is a notorious spot outside Little Rock where the KKK used to burn a fiery cross and beat up Negroes. It is claimed that Negroes are worked on here occasionally by police and deputies.

So when the case comes up in court, there will be no union witnesses to this murder, but there will be five strikebreakers and two company men. The issue of course, will not revolve around who murdered Walter Campbell. Otha Williams, strikebreaker, confessed that he stabbed Campbell to death, but he was released from custody. Instead, the dead man's buddy, Robert Brooks, and four pickets who were a block away from the scene of the crime and could not witness the killing because of darkness, were indicted under Act 193.

Murderer Freed

Police rounded up all involved in the slaying, as well as active pickets, on the night of Dec. 26. Otha Williams was held under only $1,000 bail after it was established that he had killed Campbell. Others were held under bail ranging from $1,000 to $2,500 for the chairman of the union group. They were freed under bond that night.

Next day the prosecuting attorney apparently began to see the case from the viewpoint of the $57,000,000 Wesson Oil Company. When the Grand Jury convened, Williams was freed and the five union men indicted.

Campbell is survived by his widow, Ella Mae and a beautiful little 5-year old girl, Barbara Anita, who still asks when her daddy is coming home. Mrs. Campbell, a graduate of Dunbar High School, is working as a waitress to support her child.

BREAK DOWN THE FENCE!

FROM WASHINGTON

Who Is "The Public"?

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

IT IS clear by now that the reactionaries in Congress, along with the inner circle of big industrialists who are on strike against the nation, want nothing less than the "good old days" of 1919. They want to smash the unions and, in the bargain, junk all that was won under the New Deal.

Old fashioned? Sure. Listen to Rankin or Cox or Bilbo sound off in Congress. You will hear the same story that American Tobacco and General Motors spread with fancy ads in all the newspapers. They say something like this: on one side is labor; on the other side is management; in between is something they like to call the "Public."

This ghost they call the public is long suffering and defenseless, according to them. In fact, it doesn't even exist.

Labor Is The Public

The truth of the matter is that *labor is the Public!*

Fact No. 1: more than 90% of the people in this country have to work for a living.

Fact No. 2: most of the people who work for a living work for wages.

Fact No. 3: people who work for wages are labor. Labor is the Public. When labor wins a strike, the Public takes home more wages. When Phil Murray takes the fight of the steelworkers for a decent wage to the White House, he carries the fight of everyone who works for wages. He carries the fight for the Public.

CIO has led the campaign for price control and we are now preparing to fight for the extension of OPA in June. Every major spokesman for the CIO has shown how wage increases can come out of bloated war profits without allowing price increases. Nothing could be more in the interest of the Public.

It is the Public which has answered the challenge of the corporations by shutting down the basic industries. It is the Public which is out on the picket lines in the cold of winter. It is the Public which is willingly going without paychecks because it is the Public which remembers unemployment and veterans selling apples. And it is the Public which must fight back against the conspiracy of Big Business to return to 1919.

Small businessmen and white collar workers who call their wages "salaries" are part of the same Public. The squeeze is on them too.

Take a look at what reactionaries in Congress are doing for the Public. These are the men who talk about farmers and then go to bat for the canners. They talk all the time about the Public and then filibuster to defeat the FEPC. These same Congressmen are fighting the 65-75c minimum bill.

On the other hand, take the Case Bill. This bill would crush the unions and, in the process, crush all the guarantees of freedom we have in the Constitution. This bill Representative Case pushed through Congress in the name of the "Public."

There is one main reason why

(Continued next column, below)

Tell It To Congress

REACTIONARY Congressmen are on the offensive as we have seen in the past few weeks by the filibuster in the Senate on FEPC and the passage in the House of the Case Bill. The situation demands vigilance and prompt action if we are not to be swamped by anti-labor legislation.

FEPC (S 101, HR 2232)

Minority dictatorship of poll tax Senators still filbustering. By preventing the Senate from voting, they are not only fighting FEPC, but overthrowing democratic government.

ACTION: Wire your Senators to sign the petition for cloture (to stop the filibuster) so that the Senate can vote on FEPC. If your Senator has signed, tell him to hold firm and refuse to allow FEPC to be displaced by any other bill until it is acted on.

65c-75c Minimum Wage Bills (S 1349, HR 3914)

Senate Committee will vote bill out very shortly. Coverage provisions (overtime for food processing workers) are in greatest danger of defeat.

ACTION: Write your Senators at once explaining coverage provisions and telling them to fight for overtime for food workers.

Case Bill and Other Anti-Labor Bills:

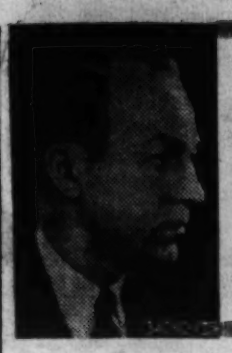
Passed in the House, the Case Bill now goes to the Senate where the Senate Education and Labor Committee is considering anti-labor legislation.

ACTION: Write your Senators to oppose the Case, Ball-Burton-Hatch bills and the Ellender "cooling off" bills. Tell them employers are conspiring to bust the unions and we need an investigation of this conspiracy, not legislation to destroy organized labor.

Unemployment Insurance for Striking Vets (HR 5063 and 5064)

Introduced by Representative Green (D., Pa.), these bills would allow vets to collect unemployment insurance while on strike—now prohibited by GI Bill.

ACTION: Write your Congressman to support.



FACING OUR PROBLEMS

By DONALD HENDERSON, General President

LS/MFT:
Lucky Strike Means FINK Tobacco

THE longest and most bitterly fought strike to our knowledge in the United States is our own American Tobacco strike.

For 4 months the 2,500 workers at the American Tobacco Company plants—Charleston, S.C., Philadelphia, Pa., and Trenton, N.J.—have been fighting this bitter battle. Back-to-work movements in all three plants have been successfully smashed. Blood as well as sweat and tears went into the smashing of these back-to-work movements. These workers, more than 2,000 of whom are women, are still keeping these plants shut tight. Their morale is high and their courage is magnificent.

In two of the three plants, namely Trenton, N.J., and Charleston, S.C., the workers receive no unemployment insurance benefits. Their sub-standard earnings, with the bulk of them getting between 50c and 65c an hour wages, even during the war, has made it all the more difficult for them to stand up under this 126-day strike.

Spread The Boycott!

The key to a rapid winning of this strike is a more successful spreading of the boycott against the Lucky Strikes, Pall Malls, La Corona cigars and other American Tobacco Company products. Lucky Strike and Pall Mall are especially important since the American Tobacco Company makes 95% of its income from these two products.

Today, in practically every town where FTA has a local, CIO workers and AFL workers are on strike in the major industries—Auto, Steel, Electric and many others.

It must be the personal responsibility of every FTA-CIO local union leader, every International Organizer and every Regional Director to see that one or more FTA members are on the picket lines of the steel, auto, electric and other strikes with signs pledging support to their strike and carrying slogans urging the strikers not to purchase Lucky Strike, Pall Mall and other American Tobacco Company products.

The slogans, "Don't Scab on Your Fellow Strikers—The American Tobacco Workers" and "Boycott Luckies and Pall Malls" should be as familiar to the steel, auto, electrical and other strikers as their own slogans for wage increases and better working conditions.

It is among the hundreds of thousands of CIO strikers that the most widespread and most enthusiastic support for a boycott on Lucky Strikes and Pall Malls can be secured. Once the actual strikers are acquainted with the American Tobacco strike, the sub-standard wages being paid in the plants and the boycott against Luckies and Pall Malls they will carry it to their homes, to their friends and to the ranks of other workers in the community.

Every Regional Director should take steps immediately to bring the facts of this strike and the boycott before membership meetings of all large local unions in the CIO. Local unions should immediately get "boycott stickers" for mass sticking campaigns around their community and around their cities.

Strike Relief Is Needed Badly!

While the boycott is the key to speeding up victory in the strike, the workers themselves need more substantial relief in order to maintain their picket lines and keep the plants closed after these 18 weeks of striking.

All FTA locals that have not already done so must rally to the support of their brother workers and sister workers who are on strike and make financial contributions out of their treasuries or through voluntary assessments.

Many CIO Councils have established joint strike relief committees. These committees should be approached by FTA officials and delegations with requests for financial contributions to this long and most bitterly fought strike.

FROM WASHINGTON

(Continued from third column)

Congressional reactionaries are getting away with this phoney line. The real Public—labor—has been shy and has not made its great strength felt sufficiently in Congress.

The polls are open to the people. It ought to be the Public's own Congress which is elected this fall. The mails are open to the people. It is up to us—the Public—to let Congress know what kind of bills we—the Public—want passed.

So long as we are quiet, reactionaries like Case and Rankin and Hoffman will be able to hide selfish motives behind the false mask of Public interest.

Labor is the Public. And it is organized labor which puts up the best fight for the Public, through legislative action and on the picket line.

Local 80 Gives Aid To Workers On Picket Lines

By Anthony Valentino, Local 80 Business Agent

Camden, N.J.—Local 80 is supporting the wage fight of striking CIO unions through financial contributions and sympathetic picketing. At a recent membership meeting the Local voted a $3 assessment for each member to support the auto, steel, electrical and American Tobacco strikers. Over $1,000 was collected the first week following the decision.

Some 20 pickets from the local joined the picket line of several hundred CIO members around the Hotel Walt Whitman where General Motors executives were entertaining the Camden Business Association at lunch. Pickets carried signs demanding that General Motors do less talking and more sincere bargaining.

Win Grievance

A big victory was won for the workers in Campbell's retort department recently, through the efforts of Shop Steward Fred "Gashouse" Marino who is just back from overseas service. The Company had been penalizing the workers for any errors they made by taking away the premium they earned under the incentive system. By the time the grievance reached Marino, a dozen employees had been penalized.

The grievances were settled, and the Company agreed to return all money taken from the employees.

In response to Local 80's demand for his support of a permanent FEPC, Senator Albert W. Hawkes told them that he is opposed to FEPC and does not feel that it is in the best interests of the people of the nation. Local 80 members are going to use Hawkes' statement to secure his defeat in the next election.

New Contract Won For DWG Workers

By Mildred Glenn, Reporter

Detroit, Mich.—Negotiations between Local 58 and the Deisel Wemmer Gilbert Co. won a new contract for the DWG members of the Local providing a 1c to 5c per hour raise for all employees.

The contract also included pay for workers whose machines break down for longer than three minutes; an improved vacation clause and pay for time lost due to injury.

At a recent party, the Gielow Division welcomed back four of its members recently discharged from the Armed Forces—George Harrington, James McAfee, Wilfred Rogotske and Emilio Cecchini.

Local 58 members heartily endorsed a voluntary assessment levied to help organize other plants in the area.

Local 21 Presses For PAC Program

Milwaukee, Wis.—Members of Local 21 at the Menominee Sugar Co., and the Liebmann Packing Co., recently participated in a delegation to get Congressman John Byrnes' committment on the CIO program.

Negotiations are now going on between Local 24 and Armour and Co. in Bloomer, and between Local 107 and Loyalty Building in Milwaukee.

Financial Contributions were presented by Local 194 to four striking Chicago unions recently. Accepting the $100 checks from Local 194 President John Gallacher are: A. S. Painter, Local 2006, United Steelworkers; Carl Leirich, Local 719, UAW; Emil Slezak, Local 101, Farm Equipment; and George Krug, Local 1105, UE. Veronica Kryzan, Fin. Secy. of Local 194, loks on. Each of the locals also received 30 dozen cans of soup. Local 194 also gave $150 to the American Tobacco strike, $200 to the Chicago Central Strike Coordinating Committee, and $100 to Local 108, Farm Equipment.

"We Will Keep Strikers Well Fed"—Illinois Food Locals Do Their Bit

By Jack Fox, Regional Director

Chicago, Ill.—"Their fight is our fight," said the FTA Illinois locals as their membership rallied in full support to striking brother CIO unions.

Local 17 mobilized the entire town of Rochelle, including the merchants, behind the steel strikers at the Whitcomb Locomotive works. In addition, the Local is giving direct financial support from their Union treasury.

"Our local was the first CIO Union in this town," said Eddie Mear, Local 17 President. "It was a tough fight, but since that time we have also organized a steelworkers local in the town. Now they are on strike, and the same people who once fought the CIO are helping the strikers."

Local 1 in Lockport has been contributing macaroni, which they produce at the Northern Ilinois Cereal Co., to the strike kitchens in their community, according to Frank Besso, President of the Local.

Bill Baumbach, President of Local 47, reports that the members of his local have been gathering canned goods and distributing them to the strikers around Harvey and the steel mills.

In Local 194, the largest local in the region, the workers have raised over $1,000 in contributions to striking Chicago CIO locals. The Chase & Sanborn division of the Local contributed $25 and 50 pounds of coffee; Campbell Soup division raised $884 and over 300 dozen cans of soup; and College Inn workers raised $97 and several dozen cans of food.

The Strike Aid Drive was well organized at the Campbell Soup plant by a committee composed of Rudy Bednara, John Gallacher, Zelna Carter, Bill Blunt, James Horn, John Sloan, Jack Fox, Paul Gardner, Cora Davis, Phil Harris, Josephine Chlupsa and Frank Bell. Many of the Stewards did an excellent job of raising money in the plant among the workers.

John Gallacher, President of Local 194 told the members, "Let it not be said that the pickets lost heart because they lacked food. We are a food union and by golly we will see to it that the pickets at the strike-bound plants are properly fed to keep them going. It is the least we can do to help win the CIO wage fight. We pledge continued support to all the striking locals of Illinois," he said.

Local 150 Wins Election At Colonial Milling Co.

By Mary Lou Koger, International Organizer

Nashville, Tenn.—Colonial Milling Co. is a small plant, but it has a solid union. The workers signed up in Local 150 almost 100%, and an NLRB election was petitioned for. When the Company lawyer refused to agree to a consent election, the workers decided they would shoow him that everyone was for the Union.

The NLRB ruled that an election would be held, and the result was 35 to 1 for FTA.

Although the mill has shut down temporarily because of the wheat shortage, the workers are still taking an active part in the affairs of the Local. Three of their members are on the Local's Executive Board—Allen Barrett, A. D. Shelborne and E. G. Bryant.

A proposed contract has been presented to the Company demanding a 60c minimum, paid vacations, double time pay for holidays worked, seniority and other standard provisions.

10c-13c Increases Won At Ralston

Nashville, Tenn.—Establishment of a 63c an hour minimum wage in the new contract signed between Local 150 and the Ralston Purina Co., on February 1, won an automatic 10c to 13c an hour increase for all the workers in the plant. The old minimum was 53c.

In addition to wages, the new contract also won improvements in the vacation schedule. Employees will receive one week's paid vacation for less than two years, and two weeks for three years.

Other provisions include improved grievance procedure; time and a half for work on six holidays; maintenance of membership and check-off.

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Local 78 Representatives present some of the problems of the fresh fruit and vegetable shed workers to the International Executive Board during the Board meeting on the West Coast in January. (Reading l. to r.) Holman Day, Pres., Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister area of the Local; Robert Mackay, Int. Rep.; and Kenneth Howard, Director of the Local's Central Business Office. The Local, composed of some 5,200 members in California and Arizona, is so large that annual conventions have to be called to transact its business. Scheduled for February 2 and 3, in El Centro, the convention considered constitutional revisions. Fifty delegates attended—25 from Salinas, 8 from Phoenix, 12 from Imperial Valley-Yuma and 5 from the small fruit area of central California. Results of the convention will appear in the next issue of the News.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD UNION TICK? —THEY FOUND THE ANSWERS HERE

Monterey, Calif.—Newly organized cannery workers from the Northern California canneries and FTA members of long standing all agree that their experiences at the FTA West Coast leadership training school was one that will help them build a Union second to none.

The school, which was held in two sessions from January 13 to 19, and from January 20 to 26—took place at beautiful Asilomar on the Pacific Ocean. Cannery workers, fruit and vegetable packing shed workers, Alaska cannery workers and citrus workers were in the first group of 22. The second group was made up of 32 cannery workers.

Favorite course was that on the Shop Steward system and the CIO method of settling grievances. Other courses included a basic grounding in the economics of the industry, union building, the dangers of race discrimination, political action, union meetings and procedure, California labor law, veterans, etc.

Under the guidance of FTA Educational Director Connie Anderson, everybody studied on an equal basis from local presidents to rank and file members.

Delegates had plenty of free time for beach parties, bowling in Monterey and get-togethers at the Asilomar Guest Inn. Many of them took a ride over the world-famous 170 mile drive.

Lecturers at the school included FTA President Donald Henderson, Research Director Joseph Califf, Regional Director Luisa Moreno and Int. Rep. Jack Montgomery. Guest lecturers were California PAC Secretary David Hedley, CIO Sec'y-Treas. Mervyn Rathborne, California Labor School Director David Jenkins, and Harold Rossman, editor of the CIO Labor Herald.

Loretta Taylor, a Union member since 1933, and a trustee of Local 78 in Salinas, found the course on Shop Stewards given by Jack Montgomery and the one on union building by Luisa Moreno the most profitable.

Veteran Leo N. Karns, a welder at the Gerber Products Co., in Oakland, and delegate from Local 50, felt that he got a good picture of FTA at the school.

"After returning to civilian life," Karns said, "I realized how strongly the CIO fought for a democratic Union—a Union run not only by well-educated leaders, but by each and every member, with each member knowing that he is the backbone of the Union and taking it upon himself to study and learn."

Short, bouncy Ann Tinnon of Phoenix is the full-time paid secretary of the Salt River Valley unit of Local 78.

"I've gotten the information I needed on things like PAC, the veterans, minorities. But mostly I learned about Shop Stewards—I never realized how much they are the key to everything," Ann said.

The CIO is new to Hank Desborough, temporary chairman of the newly-chartered San Jose cannery, Local 90. Hank is a maintenance man at the Chevy Chase cannery. He served as a CIO observer in the recent NLRB election when the unit went 75% for FTA.

Hank is a former machinist and carried an AFL card in the machinists union and later as a cannery worker. But he says he never knew what a real union was like until he joined the CIO.

Everybody agreed they learned a lot and were going to pass on the information to their fellow Union members.

Huddle: Loretta Taylor, Shop Steward of Local 78 inSalinas; Mervyn Rathborne, California CIO Secy.-Treas.; and Jack Adolph, Shop Steward for Local 85 in Sunnyvale get together to discuss a problem that came up in class at the FTA West Coast leadership training school. The school was held at Asilomar on the Pacific Ocean surrounded by pine forests.

Oldest and Youngest Unionists: Charlie Law, President of the Phoenix division of Local 78, first joined a trade union in 1921. Margie Ballard, recently appointed CWOC Representative, joined FTA in 1945. Both attended the FTA West Coast School.

List Demands For Canneries

San Francisco, Calif.—Representatives of 50,000 Northern California cannery workers this month put the finishing touches on contract demands they expect to present to 70 fruit and vegetable canneries as soon as FTA is certified as bargaining agent in the industry.

Delegates from 10 FTA locals in San Joaquin, Sacramento and Santa Clara valleys adopted major contract demands, including demands for a 30% wage increase, time-and-a-half after 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week, paid holidays and other gains.

FTA has already signed a contract with the independent Pacific Grape cannery, granting the first time-and-a-half overtime rate, paid holidays and sick leave obtained in the cannery industry here.

Final contract demands will be written at a Cannery Council subcommittee meeting Feb. 9.

Meanwhile, certification of FTA was a step nearer as a result of action of Regional Director Joseph E. Watson of the National Labor Relations Board in recommending dismissal of all objections brought by the AFL Teamsters Union after FTA defeated the Teamsters in an industry-wide NLRB election last fall.

"The main AFL objection," Watson said, "was that the election was ordered and held at all."

FTA Wins Election At Frosted Foods

Sacramento, Calif.—FTA is the winner at Sacramento Frosted Foods as the result of the National Labor Relations Board throwing out 11 challenged ballots challenged at the October elections.

The recommendation that the ballots be not counted, unless overruled by the national NLRB, gives FTA the victory by 34 to 28.

Election Set At Peninsula Pack

Sunnyvale, Calif. — An election at the Peninsula Packing carrot plant in Mountain View — where more than 80 per cent of the workers have signed CIO cards—will be held soon, it was announced by the government this week.

The election will be a consent election by agreement of the company, the FTA and the AFL. It will be held during the carrot season this spring.

In 1945, Northern California canneries processed 1,320,000,000 cans of fruit and vegetables—more than one-third of the total fruit and vegetable pack of the nation.

Volunteer Organizers and Shop Stewards of the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee in the Lindsay-Porterville area are: top row: (r. to l.) Cecil Hicks, Eva Hicks and Leora Gibbs; second row: Bob White, Pete Ferguson, Gib Boldt, Harry Miller, George Steer, Si McCreary and Estrella Smith; first row: Mrs. Harry Miller, Georgia Ferguson, Alice Boldt and Helen Gaston. Margie Ballard has been appointed CWOC Representative for the area. On January 22, CWOC members voted unanimously to notify the NLRB of their intention to strike within 30 days. CWOC has been trying to reach an agreement with the Grower-Shippers since last May on its demands for a 7c an hour increase for floor help; split on 252's; same wage scale as Central California; seniority on the job; time and a half after 8 hrs., 6 P.M., and Sundays and holidays; and signed agreements on the wall. However, Ivan G. McDaniel, company lawyer for the Grower-Shippers and their notorious lobbyist in Washington, has refused to come to terms. McDaniel is the same anti-labor lawyer who succeeded in eliminating citrus workers from the benefits of the Social Security Act. The Union plans to strike the following companies: Cherokee Citrus Co., Inc.; Gold Banner Assn., Gold Buckle Assn., Highland Fruit Growers Assn., McDermott Fruit Co., Mission Citrus Assn., Monte Vista Citrus Assn., Redlands Orange Growers Assn., Redlands Foothill Groves, Redlands Heights Groves, Redlands Mutual Orange Assn., Victoria Ave. Citrus Assn., and Western Fruit Growers, Inc.

N. Y. CIO Gives $1,000

Philadelphia, Pa. — Accompanying a healthy-looking check, came the following letter to FTA President Donald Henderson, from the Joint CIO Strike Support Committee of Greater New York:

"Herewith is a check in the amount of $1,000 from the Joint CIO Strike Support Committee of Greater New York for the support of the American Tobacco Company workers.

"This contribution is from a central fund representative of CIO and AFL unions and many community organizations in Greater New York.

"You can be assured of our continued support of the great struggle which the American Tobacco Company workers are carrying on for all of labor in our country.

"With all good wishes, sincerely and fraternally,

"Saul Mills,
"In Behalf of the Committee"

Farmers Put Eggs In Strike Basket

Trenton, N.J.—"We're with you in your fight," the Farmers Union told American Tobacco strikers here on Jan. 24, when they contributed 63 dozen egs and 5 pounds of butter to the members of Local 56.

That was the second gift that Local 56 strikers had received from the farmers. A week earlier, a delegation of strikers were presented with 5 dozen eggs and 5 pounds of butter by the Farmers Union in Frenchtown. The welcome gifts were distributed to the strikers' families.

In addition, the State, County and Municipal Workers Union of Trenton contributed $57.80 to the American Tobacco strikers in appreciation for the work done by the girls on their picket line several weeks ago. The support of the tobacco workers, the municipal workers said, helped them win their strike.

A picket line thrown around a scab's house prevented a group of would-be strike-breakers from meeting on Jan. 31. The strike is still 100% solid in Trenton.

Seamen, Ministers Support Strikers

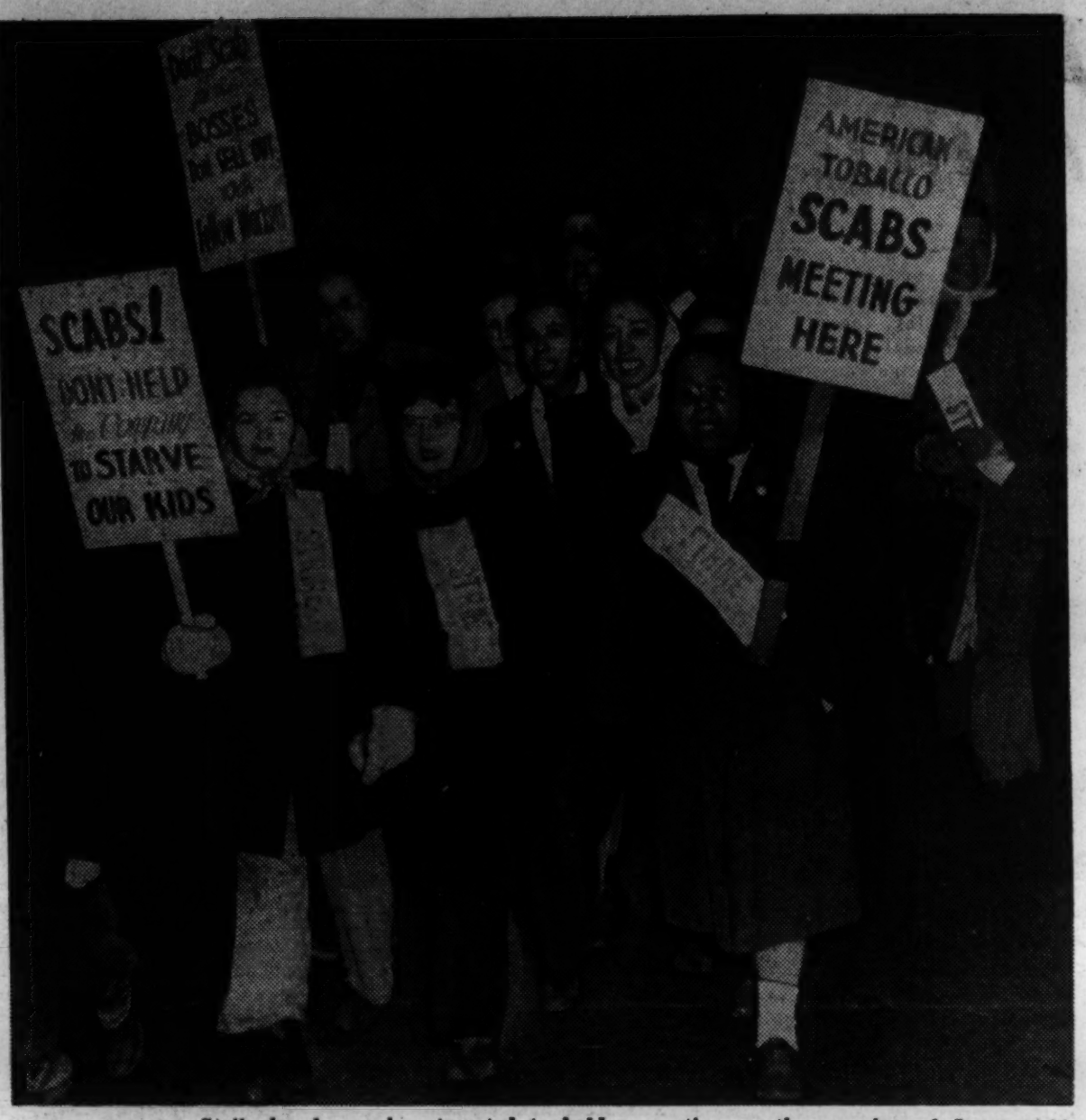
Charleston, S.C. — Full support of the members of the CIO National Maritime Union was given to the American Tobacco strikers' picket lines here, which made the police quite unhappy.

Within two hours after the NMU'ers joined the picket line, they were challenged by the local police who refused to let them talk and sing.

"It is a violation of our civil liberties when we are not allowed to shout union slogans and sing union songs at the scabs," Anthony Lucio, NMU Port Agent declared. "We intend to take the case to the courts and obtain an injunction which will prevent the police from stopping such peaceable practices."

The picket line was further augmented by Navy Lieutenant Richard J. Wethemer, who has just returned from duty in the Pacific. Lt. Wethemer, whose father is a big stockholder in the American Tobacco Company, joined the picket line because the workers didn't get "enough to support their families."

On Feb. 3, all Negro ministers in the city started a food collection drive for the American Tobacco strikers. Local 15 is intensifying its campaign for clothing, food and funds which are desperately needed by the workers who have been on strike for four months and have received no unemployment compensation.



Don't Scab! Strike-breakers who atempted to hold a meeting on the morning of January 31 found their way barred by Philadelphia American Tobacco strikers (above) who refused to let them enter the hall. Some 100 scabs and goons then tried to break through the picket line at the plant, but —

They Didn't Pass! The strong American Tobacco picket line put up a battle and prevented the scabs from entering the plant. Eight police cars drove up to the scene and cleared the scabs away. Later, Int. Org. Emil Dean (above, far left) was charged with assault and battery by strike-breaker Jennie Piccione. His case was dismissed by Magistrate McBride, while strikers sang, "You Can't Scare Me, I'm Sticking to the Union," in the courtroom.

Definition of a Scab

By Jack London

AFTER God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a SCAB. A SCAB is a two-legged animal with a cork-screw soul, a water-logged brain, and a combination backbone made of Jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

When a SCAB comes down the street men turn their backs and angels weep in Heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of Hell to keep him out. No man has the right to SCAB, so long as there is a pool of water deep enough to drown his body in, or a rope long enough to hang his carcass with. Judas Iscariot was a gentleman . . . compared with a SCAB. For betraying his master, he had the character to hang himself—a SCAB hasn't.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Judas Iscariot sold his Savior for thirty pieces of silver. Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British Army. The modern strikebreaker sells his birthright, his country, his wife, his children, and his fellow men for an unfulfilled promise from his employer, trust or corporation.

Esau was a traitor to himself. Judas Iscariot was a traitor to his God. Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country.

A strikebreaker is a traitor to himself, a traitor to his God, a traitor to his country, a traitor to his family, and a traitor to his class.

There is nothing lower than a SCAB.

Read "Facing Our Problems" by General President Donald Henderson (page 2) and "Forward March" by International Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane (page 7) for more on the American Tobacco strike.

Drop Charge Against Stanfield

Charleston, S.C.—Rapidly mobilized nationwide pressure won the dropping of charges against Reuel Stanfield, President of Local 15, on Jan. 28. Stanfield had been arrested several days before, following police strike-breaking activities on the picket line around the American Tobacco plant.

The Mayor and Chief of Police of Charleston were snowed under by wires and letters of protest against Stanfield's arrest.

Charleston Police Get Some Advice

Suffolk, Va.—*"Don't stab poor people in the back," John Hunt, Business Agent of Local 26, wrote to the Charleston police force after the arrest of Local 15 President Reuel Stanfield. A former newspaper man in Charleston, S.C., Hunt appealed to the police to refrain from strike-breaking activities.*

Hunt's letter is a honey, so we print it in full:

Dear Fellows:

As a reporter for the News and Courier a couple of years ago, I knew a lot of you guys, and I have just got quite a shock by learning that somebody, a sergeant on the force, was responsible for arresting my friend Reuel Stanfield on some kind of flimsy charge—after staying a couple of hours in the office with the manager of the American Tobacco Company.

I remember the guys I knew as good fellows, working men themselves, who know what it is to try and live and raise a family on wages that aren't half-way decent. It doesn't seem possible to me that any of the men I knew would side with a rotten, penny-pinching multi-millionaire, starvation-wage outfit like the American Tobacco Company, against their own kind of people—honest working people who have the guts to stand up and fight for their right to live like decent Americans in a land that has plenty for everybody.

The Only Course

Surely nobody I knew, like Lieut. Vega, Sgt. Thompson, Sgt. Winters, and the rest, is mixed up in this dirty strike-breaking business.

Those people at the cigar plant have had the guts to fight for their rights on a picket line for 14 long weeks—and they've had the common sense to know that it takes all of them working together, white and black, men and women, to whip an outfit like American Tobacco. They have taken the only course a decent man can take when the livelihood, the health, the education of his family is at stake.

For . . . sake, don't you guys turn your guns and clubs against them now, when victory is so close. Don't stab poor people in the back for the benefit of some high-and-mighty millionaires who would show their gratitude by coldly cutting your throat if you ever had to go to work in their plant—the same as they mercilessly cut the throats of the rest of their workers.

America is at the cross-roads today. Shall its enormous wealth be turned over unconditionally to a few kings of unlimited power and money, while the millions who made that wealth wear patched rags and live off beans and fatback? Or shall the workers demand, and get, a decent standard of living out of the plenty that they create? That is the issue on the picket lines today. What have you to gain by helping the millionaires? Don't be a sucker.

Yours truly,

JOHN HUNT

Wage Fight Continues On The Picket Lines

The anti-labor front was cracked this month with the signing of wage agreements with three of the nation's largest corporations. Substantial increases were won for the members of the CIO United Auto Workers at Ford and Chrysler, and of the CIO Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers at RCA.

Win $55,000 in Wage Raises at Reid-Murdock

Ellsworth, Mich.—Recent negotiations between Local 74 and the Reid, Murdock Co. ended in a contract providing a total of some $55,000 in wage gains for the workers.

Wage increases included a 5c an hour general increase across the Board; a 5c an hour merit increase for employees of one year; and 2 weeks' vacation with pay for 5-year employees.

In addition, the way was paved for the future elimination of exemption periods by the inclusion in the new contract of time and a half in excess of 10 hours a day or 56 hours a week during the seasonal peak. In the past, many employees put in 12 to 14 hours a day in season without overtime. Time and a half will be paid over a 40-hour week outside of exemption periods.

Minimum wages for women workers were established at 60c an hour, and 65c an hour for men. A wage reopening clause was also included to provide for changes in the national wage picture.

Drive To Organize Cotton Compresses

Houston, Texas — A concerted drive to organize all cotton compresses in Houston is under way under the leadership of the officers and members of Local 75, according to Regional Director Harry Koger.

Roger Adams, plant chairman of the Manchester Terminal plant, reported that his shop is actively organizing one of the neighboring unorganized plants. "We are pointing out to these unorganized workers that they are enjoying higher wages because of FTA organization at other compresses," Adams said. "Many of the workers in that compress are seeing the light and signing up." He added that they expect to be in a position to demand bargaining rights in the very near future.

Another automatic increase in compress wages is expected in March. Flour mill workers at Arrow Mills, Inc., are conducting negotiations for wage increases and strengthening of union security.

J. W. White is heading the negotiations of the flour mill workers, while R. H. Smith, newly elected Local 75 President, is guiding the work of the compress workers.

Win New Contract In Eppinger-Russel

Jacksonville, Fla.—Local 4A's strike at the Eppinger and Russell Co. here was settled recently with a new contract. Contract provisions included a 5c an hour increase in the minimum wage, maintenance of membership and one week vacations for one year. Vacation pay will be compiled at the rate of 2% of previous annual gross earnings.

The contract also provided wage increases for various job classifications.

Eppinger and Russell strikers had been out on strike for three months. Regional Director John Lackner assisted in settling the strike and negotiations for the new contract.

Win Election In Purina Feed Mill

Charlotte, N. C.—An NLRB election held recently at the Purina Feed Mill here went FTA by a vote of 31 to 18.

The plant employs some 80 workers, according to Int. Rep. William DeBerry.

It's Different Now For Pecan Workers

By Harry Koger, Regional Director

San Antonio, Texas—San Antonio's attitude toward the CIO is far different today from what it was several years ago. At Local 172's last membership meeting several old-timers noted with satisfaction that the doors of the Boxer County Courthouse, where the meeting was held, was thrown open to the Local. It was quite a contrast to the reception the CIO got back in the days of tear gas, black-jacks and jail sentences.

Owen Kilday, the Sheriff who gave permission for the meeting, was the San Antonio Chief of Police back in the days when the FTA pecan workers were not quite so popular.

Nearly 300 Local 172 members attending the meeting elected their new officers: Dora Silva, Pres.; Emma Martinez, Vice-Pres.; Stella Rodriguez, Fin. Sec.; Victoria Quesado and Dolores Gomez, Shop Stewards.

The members pledged to participate in the American Tobacco boycott and voted a contribution to the American Tobacco strike.

Celebrate New Pact For Libby Cannery

By Glenn Gsell, Reporter

Morrison, Ill.—Local 52 recently celebrated the new contract with the Libby, McNeil and Libby plant by a Union dinner at one of the local restaurants. New gains in the contract include 2½c to 10c per hour raises for the workers in the plant.

Local 52 officers are Howard Fields, Pres.; Howard McCullah, Vice-Pres.; and C. C. Scudder, Secy.-Treas.

Some 120,000 workers at Ford won an 18c an hour raise; 65,000 at Chrysler won 18½c an hour; and 8,000 in the RCA plant in Camden, N. J., won 17½c an hour.

Proving that the CIO's wage demands are reasonable and can be fulfilled by industry, these victories have added new strength and determination to the 1½ million workers still marching the picket lines.

Steel:

The steel industry still refuses to accept President Truman's recommendation for an 18½c an hour increase in wages, holding out for increases in steel prices. The 750,000 striking steelworkers are rallied under Pres. Philip Murray's battle-warning:

"You are fighting for women and children, for bread and butter and medicine and clothing and education and culture.

"All that we need to win is for you to make up your minds that this industry is not going to make one pound of steel."

Auto:

The three-month old General Motors strike continued as CIO United Auto Workers Pres. R. J. Thomas charged that GM was not bargaining in good faith in sessions before Federal Mediator James F. Dewey. The charge followed the absence of GM Pres. Charles E. Wilson from negotiating sessions, after he had promised to appear.

Latest development was the stoppage of all GM tool and die work being done by UAW members in jobbing shops in the Detroit area.

Electric:

CIO United Electrical Workers Pres. Albert J. Fitzgerald urged a new LaFollette Committee to investigate "a new conspiracy of industry against the people," while 200,000 UE members are striking. They have the General Electric, General Motors (electrical division) and Westinghouse plants shut down tight.

Western Union:

The 5-week old strike of Western Union workers in New York was settled on Feb. 10, with the signing of a contract with the CIO American Communications Association and agreement to submit their wage dispute to arbitration. It was a clear-cut victory for the 7,000 strikers.

Meat Packing:

CIO Packinghouse workers are waiting for a recommendation for pay increases from the fact-finding board which is attempting to reach a settlement.

On Jan. 26, the packinghouse workers, through delegates from every local, unanimously voted to return to work after Secy. of Agriculture Anderson assured them that he would seek approval of any wage increase recommended by the fact-finding board.

Notes from LOCALS

Demand FEPC

34, 75 Houston, Texas — Locals 75 and 34, composed largely of Negro compress and food workers, sent wires to Senators Tom Connally, Wallace White and Lee O'Daniel, demanding an end to the filibuster against the permanent FEPC bill. "We want democracy in America—not fascism," the wire said. Over 350 members of the Houston port National Maritime Union unanimously endorsed the message.

Get Scholarships

64 San Diego, Calif. — Three Shop Stewards of Local 64 were awarded scholarships to the FTA West Coast School last month. They were Catalina Rodriguez, Hortensia Lopez and Clarence Kiesling.

Recently elected co-chairman of the Local 64 PAC are Agnes Adams and veteran Jack Pena.

By Helga Weigert, Bus. Ag.

New Local

67 Delphos, Ohio — Local 67 held its first membership meeting under its new charter last month when it elected Local officers. The officers are: Gene Boerger, Pres.; Louise Zapp, Vice-Pres.; Lulu Mosey, Rec. Secy.; Cecilia Kindley, Fin. Secy.; Lillian Ulegisino, Chief Steward; and Steve Studenka, Board member.

The new Local's Trustees are: Harmon Jackson, Hazel Bonafis and Elizabeth Ballew.

Local 67 members are employed at the Deisel Wemmer Gilbert cigar plant.

New Officers

111 Pittsburgh, Pa. — Newly elected officers of Local 111 for 1946 are: Mary Bailey, Pres.; Josephine Wojciewhoski, Vice-Pres.; Mary Sebetich, Rec. Secy.; and Jane Rajecki, Fin. Secy.

Officers Elected

115 Depew, N. Y.—At the Local 115 regular membership meeting this month, Local officers were elected. They are: Brownie Ambroski, Pres.; Albert Nichter, Vice-Pres.; Rosella Leininger, Fin. Sec.; Walter Cijhilski, Rec. Sec.; Sgt. at Arms Augustia Leininger; Adeline Fisher, Celia Ortnor and Edward Niemara, Trustees.

Members of the Grievance Committee are: Adeline Fisher, Rosella Leininger, Myrtle French, Robert Williams, and Lester Fowler.

Negotiations are under way with the Quaker Oats Co., on the new contract and wage increases.

By Myrtle French, Reporter

Enlarge Board

194 Chicago, Ill.—Local 194 enlarged its Executive Board to some 22 members at its last election to give the Local a more representative leadership. They are: John Gallacher, Peter Aleck, Willie Griffin, Henry Gistover, Stanley Surna and Leavie Garner, Vice-Presidents; Veronica Kryzan, Fin. Secy.; Josephine Chlupsa, Rec. Secy.; John Jurgensohn, Sgt. at Arms; Minnie Lee Turner, Frank Bell, Harold Becker, Trustees; John Sanbury, Chief Shop Steward—day shift; George White, Chief Shop Steward—night shift; Mike Jurcenko, Chairman Standard Brands; Mathew Buchanan, Chairman Superior Products; John Buckley, Chairman Steffin Vinegar Products; John Maurisak, Chairman College Inn division; and Paul Gardner, Business Agent.

By Veronica Kryzan, Reporter

CIO's Own Radio Shows EVERY SATURDAY

Two Full, Weekly 15-Minute Radio Programs, of and for CIO

1. Labor-USA. Dramatic shows. American Broadcasting Co. network. Saturdays, 6:45 to 7 P. M., EST.
2. Cross-Section—CIO. On-the-spot interviews of CIO people by William Downs, noted CBS commentator. Saturdays, 3:45 to 4 P. M., EST.

Live Listening!

"Dehydrated Children" is what doctors call thousands of seriously undernourished Yugoslav babies, one of whom is shown being examined above. Their lives depend on the baby foods you send immediately. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief is appealing nationally for food to help restore the health of these children. Contributions to Committee headquarters, 235 E. 11th St., New York, N. Y.

WFTU Wins Place On UNO Economic Council

London—The general committee of the United Nations Organization meeting here has recommended that the World Federation of Trade Unions be allowed to participate in the UNO's economic and social council "without vote and for consultative purposes."

The action was the first official UNO recognition of the new world labor organization which represents 60 million organized [illegible] WFTU had requested that it be made a voting member of the council.

Opposition to the invitation was expressed by Senator Tom Connally, member of the U. S. delegation, who protested that it was discrimination against the AFL, which is the only important labor organization not a member of the WFTU.

U. S. Hides Reaction In the Philippines

Manila — Philippine reaction, with American aid, is massing to wipe out the Philippine people's movement, Allied labor News correspondent Mack Evans reports.

American aid to the reactionary government forces came as a present of 15,000 sub-machine guns. American officers are giving battle training to 150,000 Philippine regulars. The U. S. Army 86th Division is being "reorganized along battle lines" in view of "the present political crisis."

FTA Is a World Family, Fighting For Minorities

By Edgar T. Albritton, Acting PAC Director of CWOC, Redlands-Riverside Area

WHEN a people anywhere, join together to honestly face any problem that is common to them all—a solution to that problem is not far away.

Such a group of people assembled at Pacific Grove, California, on the evening of January 16, to discuss the problems of minorities.

This group was made up of minorities—Filipino, Negro, Jew, Irish and the rest of us: all brothers and sisters united in the FTA-CIO world family to do our bit toward correcting the abuses that minority groups suffered in the past and are faced with today.

One after the other, members of this group cited heart-rending examples of how their people have been used by the "boss" to keep wages at a sub-standard level. How hatred of one group for the other has tended to keep working people from organizing for their common benefit.

Branded "Inferior"

One member from Seattle, Washington, told how discouraged he had become. Not knowing whom he could trust he had lost faith in humanity. Even though he was a graduate of the University of the State of Washington he was refused employment and branded "mentally inferior" because he was a Filipino.

But as he became an active and responsible leader in his FTA local, a "new hope" was born, his faith in God restored and his conviction that through greater participation in Political Action, the ideals of democracy could become realities for more people.

One Negro brother related how his "boss" had been trying to stir up trouble between the Negro and Mexican workers on his job—telling lies that were aimed at keeping them from joining the Union.

Each of us readily recognized that minority problems should not exist in a land that boasts of Christian democracy. We are reminded of a parable. Today, the facts charge it a bit. The preachers of the land have passed by on the other side of the road when they have chanced to meet suffering humanity; yet, the labor leader comes along and puts his arms around the human with no regard to race, creed or color, and says, "Let me help you, brother."

Oh yes, the labor leader, especially those of the FTA-CIO, are charged with being Communist! Maybe some are; but I ask, which has shown the greater love for his fellow man? And doesn't democracy guarantee freedom of religion and political belief?

I am white, born in the "deep South." My Negro brother, on my right, recalled with me how as a small child he was able to play with white children. But as he grew older, his parents and the parents of white children soon educated them to believe that for some vague reason they should not continue to play together. We agreed that this was not our idea of democracy.

We agreed that democracy should not tolerate the tarring and feathering or lynching of Negroes, but should guarantee for Negroes the right to vote through abolition of the poll-tax and the end of Jim Crow practices wherever they exist.

We believe that Congress must guarantee a democracy that is administered without discrimination regarding creed, color, nationality, religious or political belief. Anything less is "legislation without proper representation" and violates the simple ideals of democracy.

The time has come for American workers to arise and cry with a loud voice, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

FORWARD MARCH!

Which Side Are You On?

By HAROLD J. LANE, International Secretary-Treasurer

THE strike against the American Tobacco Company by FTA is now in its 18th week.

It's been 18 weeks of pounding the picket line—126 days of withstanding snow, rain and freezing temperatures — fighting off back-to-work movements — fighting off paid company stooges — fighting off gestapo-like police methods, especially in Charleston—3,024 hours of unity of the strikers, colored and white on the picket lines, in the strike headquarters, in the community work of the strike committees — of determination that their cause is just and no matter how long it takes, will stand fast until victory is won.

There may be other strikes which are country-wide and involve more workers than the strike of the 2,500 American Tobacco workers, but there is no strike in America which is a more justified one and is worthy of the united support of all labor.

ISSUES

The issues at stake are those which most of the organized workers in this country already enjoy.

A No-Discrimination Clause Because of Race, Color or Creed:

Can you imagine a company refusing to agree to such a clause in their contract? It's true that today it applies mainly to our colored sisters, but if this company were to allow to maintain its position, tomorrow it might mean discrimination against Italian workers, Polish workers and any other minority National groups.

A 65c Minimum Wage:

The average wage earned by these workers during the war was between 50c and 60c an hour. This is a sub-standard starvation wage. According to the U. S. government agency the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that a minimum standard of health and decency today requires an income of $1,950 a year after taxes have been paid. This is an average of about $1.00 an hour.

The profits of the American Tobacco Co. during the war years of 1941-44 totalled more than 88 million dollars after taxes. Its working capital more than doubled, increasing from 141 million at the end of 1940 to 311 million at the end of 1944. Production measured by sales went up 87%, profits before taxes went up 62%.

The cost of living went up approximately 33% and the wages of the workers increased less than 20%. These figures should give you some idea of what the score is.

The 25c an Hour Increase:

This increase in wages would bring their average wage to about 80c to 85c an hour—and 85c an hour is still 15c lower than what the Bureau of Labor Statistics states is required for a minimum standard of health and decency, namely $1.00 an hour.

As you know, Congress instead of representing the American people as they should, are playing hand-in-glove with the big manufacturers to help industry break the labor movement. They have revoked the excess profit taxes and have guaranteed the companies at least the profit they made between the years 1936-39. These tax refunds and profits guarantees were provided by Congress mainly to help the employers to meet the problems of reconversion.

The American Tobacco Company has no reconversion problem. Its products are produced in the same manner in peacetime as in wartime. Therefore, these refunds and guarantees are just so much extra profit for the Company. Next year the Company will not have to pay any excess profits taxes. This means extra profits of 14 million dollars in 1946.

The wage increases asked by its workers comes to less than 10% of these profits.

Union Shop:

Approximately 98% of the workers in Trenton belong to Local 56. Approximately 98% of the workers in Pennsylvania belong to Local 186 and approximately 80% of the workers in Charleston, S. C., belong to Local 15. It is the demands of these workers, realizing the long history of anti-labor union-busting policy of the American Tobacco Co., that the only guarantee they have of protecting their wages, hours and working conditions is to have a union shop contract.

And the sooner the Company realizes that the workers are wise to them and the workers will not retreat from these demands, the sooner the strike will be settled and production can be resumed.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

These workers need help! They need financial help fast and lots of it! They are fighting your fight the same as if they were in your own Local Union.

Are you giving an hour's pay a week to help these strikers? If not, you are helping the American Tobacco Co. break the strike.

Have you got the boycott bulletins in all shops of your Local, in your Local Union hall, in the City Industrial Union Councils? If you haven't, then you have been helping the American Tobacco Co. break the strike.

Have you circulated a petition in your shop and in your Local Union demanding that the American Tobacco Co. grant the demands of their workers and settle the strike? If you haven't, you have been dogging on the job and helping the American Tobacco Co. try to break the strike.

Have you notified your grocer man, your druggist and acquainted them with this strike and the issues involved and requested them to take the American Tobacco products off their shelves? If you haven't, you have been double-crossing these workers and helping the American Tobacco Co. hold out longer.

Have you notified the vendors and cigarette machine operators to take the cigarettes out of the shops under CIO contract and demanded the removal of the American Tobacco products from cafeterias and vending machines?

The winning of this strike is the number one job of every one of our members and Locals in this Union. Many of the members and Locals have done an excellent job, but there is more work to be done.

The boycott and the drive for finances must be intensified!

House Passes Union-Busting Case Bill

Washington, D. C.—A bill which attacks labor more violently than a police raid on a picket line passed the House on Feb. 7 on a roll call vote of 258 to 155. It is now up to the Senate to vote upon the bill.

This measure is the Case Bill (HR 5262). Tacked onto the Fact Finding Bill, it was railroaded through the Rules Committee without hearings and before members of the Committee had even read the bill. The Rules Committee, dominated by Republican and Southern Democrats, bypassed the House Labor Committee in taking this action and violated years of precedent.

This is what the Case Bill does:

- Outlaws boycotts and sympathy strikes, now regarded as legal;
- Lets an employer drag a union into court when he accuses it of breaking a contract;
- Repeals the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction act and restores the hated labor injunction as a weapon against unions;
- Makes illegal picketing by what a court or a company may call "force or violence." Workers who continue to picket lose their rights under the Wagner Act;
- Makes strikes illegal for a period of 35 days; prohibits any form of assistance to strikes;
- Bans foremen and clerical workers from unions.

Action Needed

At a time when strikes are being provoked by the big corporations who refuse to engage in collective bargaining in order to drive wages down and break the unions, this bill is a particularly outrageous piece of legislation.

The Case Bill now comes to the Senate for a vote. All FTA members and locals should deluge their Senators with wires and letters demanding a vote against the bill. Tell your Senators to demand drastic legislative measures against the anti-union corporations which are using tax refunds to defy the government and to provoke the present industrial strife.

Need Action To Get Vote On FEPC

Washington, D. C.—After 15 days of filibuster on the FEPC bill in the Senate, a cloture petition, signed by 48 Senators, to limit debate and force a vote on the bill was ruled out of order by president pro tem of the Senate, Senator Kenneth McKellar.

However, the people of the U. S. will not accept defeat. They are determined to force the passage of the FEPC bill, which makes it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against workers because of race, creed or nationality.

There is no doubt that the FEPC bill, if brought to a vote, will be passed. The demand for cloture must be voted on again and again as many times as is necessary to bring the bill to a vote.

Wire your Senators to sign the cloture petition, if their names are not among those listed below, and to vote for the bill.

Senators who have already signed cloture petition:

Democrats — Chavez, N. M.; Guffey, Pa.; Gossett, Ida.; Hoffman, O.; Kilgore, W. Va.; Barkley, Ky.; Lucas, Ill.; Taylor, Ida.; Myers, Pa.; Briggs, Mo.; Downey, Cal.; Green, R. I.; Wagner, N. Y.; McMahon, Conn.; Walsh, Mass.; Thomas, Utah; Thomas, Okla.; Pepper, Fla.; Murray, Mont.; Magnuson, Wash.; Mitchell, Wash.; and Tunnell, Del.

Republicans — Donnell, Mo.; Morse, Ore.; Saltonsall, Mass.; Stanfill, Ky.; Butler, Neb.; Smith, N. J.; Hickenlooper, Ia.; Willis, Ind.; Taft, O.; Langer, N. D.; Cordon, Ore.; Brewster, Me.; Ferguson, Mich.; Capper, Kan.; Tobey, N. H.; Wherry, Neb.; Reed, Kan.; Capehart, Ind.; Ball, Minn.; Brooks, Ill.; Hart, Conn.; Aiken, Vt.; and Knowland, Cal.

Progressive—LaFollette, Wis.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Vet March Gets Results: **Their signs wait on the steps outside as 600 ex-GIs crowd into the caucus room of the state Capitol at Harrisburg, Pa., to demand unemployment insurance for striking vets. Within two days, Governor Edward Martin announced that vets, prevented under the GI bill of rights from collecting jobless benefits while on strike, would be entitled to state benefits. Albert Smith, chairman of the vets' delegation, said the governor's action "demonstrates the effectiveness of mass action . . . It looks as though the veterans will have to stage a lot more demonstrations . . . to get a state veterans bonus, adequate housing and relief for strikers," said Smith. The vets, most of them members of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union, came from Pittsburgh, Erie and Philadelphia, centers of strike activity. They marched through the streets to the capitol building, where they laid their case in strong terms before legislative leaders.**

Local 80 Wins Vacation Pay For Vets For 1945

Camden, N.J.—"Oh boy! Our Union sure fights for us," is the opinion you'll hear expressed by the veterans who have returned to work at the Campbell Soup plant here. Local 80 recently went to bat for them and won vacation pay for 1945 for vets in an arbitration case.

"All veterans who returned to work at the Campbell Soup plant after July 1, 1945, and before January 1, 1946, shall receive two weeks vacation with pay," announced a letter sent out to the veterans in the plant. It was signed by President Herbert Kling and Business Agent Tony Valentino.

Back in 1944, the Company agreed verbally to give pay to workers on leave of absence during the year who returned before January 1. However, when the Union (which considers workers in the armed forces on leave of absence) requested to apply this agreement to veterans returning in 1945, the Company refused.

The Arbitration Chairman ruled in favor of the Union claiming that a ruling applying to civilian workers is also applicable to veterans.

FTA Locals Support GI's

Chicago, Ill. — Supporting the demonstrations of GIs overseas against the slowdown in demobilization, the members of FTA locals in Indiana and Illinois sent over 1000 petitions to President Truman urging him to bring the boys back home.

These petitions protested the presence of American troops in friendly nations such as China, the Philippines, Hawaii, France and Italy, saying that this ran counter to the principle that each nation should be free to determine its own form of government. Such a policy reflects badly on U. S. foreign policy in the eyes of the rest of the world, the petition pointed out.

Locals 17 in Rochelle, Ill., 18 in De Kalb, Ill., 47 in Blue Island, Ill., 52 in Morrison, Ill., 194 in Chicago, Ill., and Local 39 in Shelbyville, Ind., were among the locals who participated in this petition drive.

In Local 194 the entire campaign was in the hands of veterans who did a fine job of getting the local union membership to support the campaign.

Two More Veterans Added to FTA Staff

Philadelphia, Pa.—Wendell Phillips and Harold Kotzker, two veterans who were recently discharged after three years in the Army, have been appointed to the FTA staff.

Phillips, former International Organizer of Local 78, will act as Northwest Regional Director, servicing FTA locals in Washington, Oregon and Alaska.

Mr. Kotzker will serve as International Organizer in Baltimore, Md. Before he entered the Army, Kotzker was an officer of the Philadelphia Industrial Union Council, President of the Philadelphia Joint Council of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees Union and President of Local 18 of the URWDSEA.

THE Story of Labor
AMERICA'S FIRST GREAT LABOR LEADER WAS SAMUEL GOMPERS. HE FOUNDED THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND WAS PRESIDENT AS LONG AS HE LIVED. HE WAS A FIGHTER AND AN ORGANIZER AND PLACED TRADE UNIONISM ON A FIRM BASIS IN U.S.A. HE SAW THE UNIONS GROW FROM A FEW THOUSAND TO MILLIONS OF MEMBERS, FROM SMALL LOCALS TO STRONG AND POWERFUL ORGANIZATIONS. HIMSELF A JEW AND AN IMMIGRANT HE LOVED HIS ADOPTED LAND WITH A PASSIONATE DEVOTION. "AMERICA IS NOT MERELY A NAME," HE SAID. "IT IS NOT MERELY A LAND. IT IS A SYMBOL; IT IS AN IDEAL; THE HOPES OF THE WORLD CAN BE EXPRESSED IN THE IDEAL... AMERICA." IT WAS FROM THE RANKS OF IMMIGRANTS LIKE GOMPERS THAT AMERICAN UNIONISM DREW ITS STRENGTH...
JOE WORKER
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NO JOBS FOR WEAVERS. I'M USING MACHINERY NOW!
LORD, STRIKE ME DEAD! MY WIFE, MY KIDS WANT BREAD AND I'VE NO WORK!
WE'RE HUNGRY, TOO. MY PA'S A CIGAR-MAKER!
SILK MILL
NO JOBS
TIMES WERE SO HARD, THE GOMPERS FAMILY SAILED FOR AMERICA. THE CIVIL WAR WAS ON.
WUXTRY! LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATED!
WHY DO YOU CRY FOR OLD ABE, SAM? YOU'RE ENGLISH!
DON'T SAY THAT! I'M AN AMERICAN! I LOVED MR LINCOLN!
YOUNG SAM BECAME A CIGARMAKER LIKE HIS FATHER...
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE MOSTLY IMMIGRANTS SOME MAKE YOU WORK IN FILTHY HOLES LIKE THIS FOR LITTLE MONEY. IF ONLY YOU HAD A REAL UNION!
SOME DAY I'LL FORM A GOOD, STRONG UNION!
IN 1875 GOMPERS, AN ENGLISH JEW, STRASSER, A HUNGARIAN, AND LAURRELL, A SWEDE.... ALL AMERICANS... ORGANIZED CIGARMAKERS' LOCAL NO. 144. THEY STRUCK AND LOST. GOMPER'S YOUNG WIFE RECEIVED A VISITOR....
MRS. GOMPERS, IF YOUR HUSBAND WILL QUIT THE UNION, I'LL PAY YOU $30. A WEEK!
GET OUT OF HERE! I'D RATHER STARVE THAN SAM SHOULD BETRAY HIS UNION!
IN SPITE OF STARVATION AND BLACKLISTING, GOMPERS PERSISTED. IN 1881 HE FORMED A NATIONAL FEDERATION....
YOU'RE QUITTING THE KNIGHTS TO JOIN US? WHY?
I'M TIRED OF SECRET PASSWORDS AND BIG TALK. I WANT ACTION!
AT A MEETING IN 1886...
LET'S CALL OURSELVES THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.
WE'RE GERMANS, POLES, IRISH, SLAVS; WE'RE CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS AND JEWS... BUT WE'RE ALL AMERICANS!